

October 6, 1997

ODUSD(IA&I)AP
Standardization Program Division
5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1403
Falls Church, VA 22041-3466

MEMORANDUM FOR DOD STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Policy Memo 97-6, "Including Military-Unique Rationale in Defense Specifications and Standards"

We continue to discover newly approved defense specifications and standards that appear to be for commercial products. In general, requirements for commercial products should be described in non-government standards, when available, or in commercial item descriptions.

To give users an understanding why it was necessary to develop a military unique document, preparing activities shall include a statement as part of the intended use in paragraph 6.1 of defense specifications to indicate what about the product covered by the defense specification causes it to be military unique. The statement should be specific as to why commercial products would not satisfy the requirement. The statement shall not include vague generalities. Specific criteria must be provided to give the reader a strong sense of why a military unique document is needed. Attached are some examples of acceptable and unacceptable statements.

This requirement becomes effective December 1, 1997. After that time, the DoD Single Stock Point shall reject any document that does not explicitly give the rationale for being military unique. If you have any questions about this policy, contact your Departmental Standardization Office (DepSO).

/signed/

Andrew D. Certo
Chief,
Standardization Program Division

cc: DepSOs
DoDSSP (Mr. Rick Rodemer)

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE STATEMENTS FOR MILITARY UNIQUE RATIONALE

These valves are military unique because they must contain boiler pressures that exceed any commercial shipboard boiler pressures. These valves are also specially designed to withstand the types of high shock that would be experienced from nearby or direct munitions explosions.

These meals-ready-eat are military unique because they must have a shelf life that exceeds similar commercial food rations by two years.

The fuzes covered by this specification are military unique because they are used for underwater mines only and have no commercial application.

The forklift truck covered by this specification is military unique. It will be used in rear combat areas, and thus, has light armor to protect the operator against small arms fire and shrapnel. In addition, the forklift truck must be able to operate satisfactorily under adverse terrain conditions typically found on the battlefield.

The electronic components covered by this specification are military unique because they must be able to operate satisfactorily under steady accelerations of 20 g applied in any direction; at ambient temperatures ranging from minus 34 degrees Celsius to 71 degrees Celsius; and when the ambient pressure drops from sea level to 65,000 meters in ten minutes. Commercial electronic components are not designed to withstand such extreme and sudden environmental conditions and would experience catastrophic failure.

EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE STATEMENTS FOR MILITARY UNIQUE RATIONALE

These valves are military unique because they must be of sufficient quality and reliability to ensure the safety of shipboard boilers.

These meals-ready-eat are military unique to ensure adequate nutritional value.

The fuzes covered by this specification are military unique to ensure safety of personnel when using dynamite to clear paths for military construction.

The forklift truck covered by this specification must be rugged and demonstrate high reliability under extreme weather conditions.

The electronic components covered by this specification are military unique because they must operate satisfactorily in a harsh environment.